JOURNEY TO THE WEST

ZHENG JIAN KE & DENG ZHIHUI

THIS CHAPTER WAS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF 46 PATREON SUPPORTERS!

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西行纪

郑健和主编

邓志锋绘画

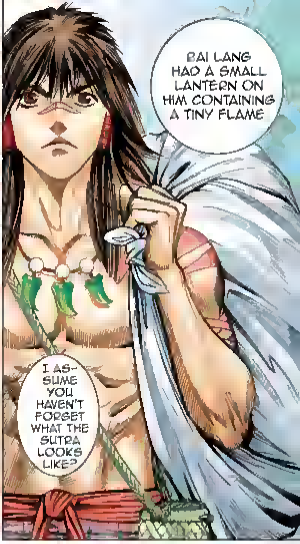
10

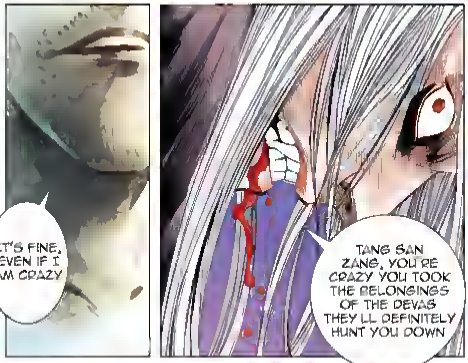
THE TRAIL OF DEMONS

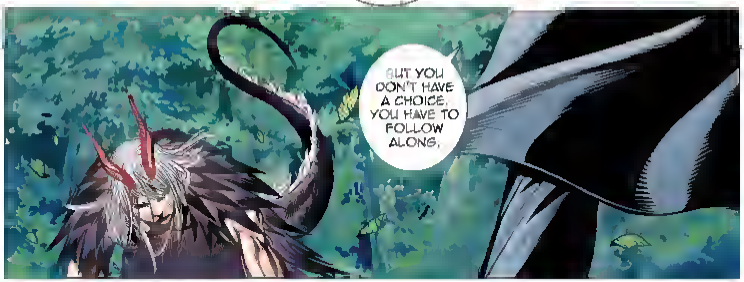
西行纪
卷十
《妖怪大道》

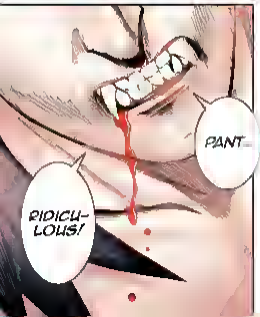
YOU'RE KIDDING ME, RIGHT?
I'M NOT
DING
WE MADE A BIG MISTAKE BRINGING THE SUTRA BACK TO MIDDLE EARTH THE DEVAS DISAPPOINTED ME THE REASON THEY WANTED THE SUTRA WASN'T TO SAVE THE WORLD ONCE I THOUGHT I COULDN'T DO ANYMORE ABOUT IT I THOUGHT ALL I COULD DO WAS BEAR THE BURDEN OF THAT SIN FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE
BUT SIXTEEN YEARS LATER, THE SUTRA MIRACULOUSLY RETURNED TO ME IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF HIM
!
I HAVE TO GO ON A JOURNEY TO THE WEST, AGAIN?
HAH... HAHA! TANG SAN ZANG,

THIS TIME, I'M THE ONE ESCORTING HIM
GOING BACK TO THE WEST WAS HIS IDEA

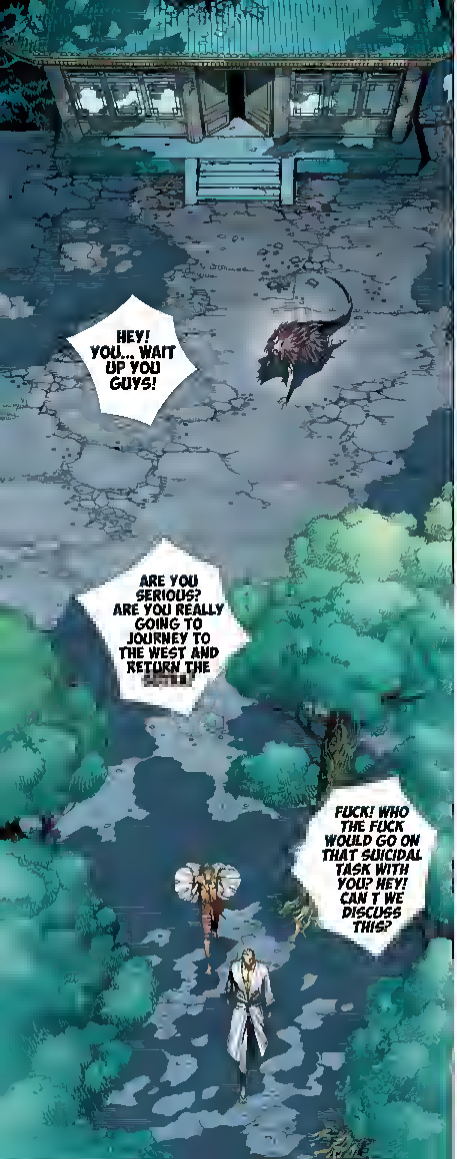

BAI LANG HAD A SMALL LANTERN ON HIM CONTAINING A TINY FLAME
I ASSUME YOU HAVEN'T FORGET WHAT THE SUTRA LOOKS LIKE?

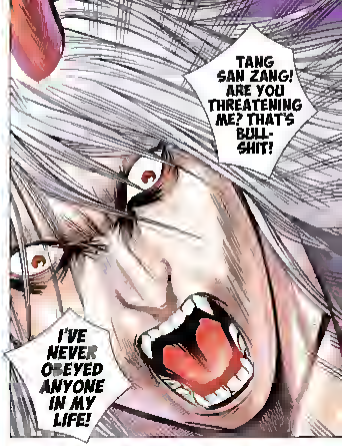

IT'S FINE, EVEN IF I AM CRAZY
TANG SAN ZANG, YOU'RE CRAZY YOU TOOK THE BELONGINGS OF THE DEVAS THEY'LL DEFINITELY HUNT YOU DOWN


BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE. YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW ALONG.


PANT
RIDICULOUS!

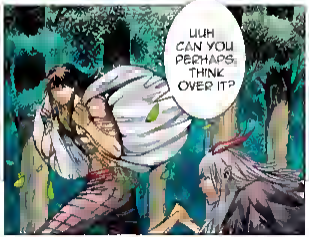
UNLESS YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH EATING GRASS ALL D**Y EVERYDAY, AND WANT TO TURN INTO A HORSE AGAIN.


HEY! YOU... WAIT UP YOU GUYS!
ARE YOU SERIOUS? ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO JOURNEY TO THE WEST AND RETURN THE [illegible]?
FUCK! WHO THE FUCK WOULD GO ON THAT SUICIDAL TASK WITH YOU? HEY! CAN T WE DISCUSS THIS?


TANG SAN ZANG! ARE YOU THREATENING ME? THAT'S BULL-SHIT!
I'VE NEVER OBEYED ANYONE IN MY LIFE!

DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT

CAI LANG, LET'S GO, LEAVE HIM BE


UUH CAN YOU PERHAPS, THINK OVER IT?

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...
ARGH! ALRIGHT! FUCK IT! YOU GUYS CAN GO FUCKING DIE FOR ALL I CARE!
I FUCKING SWEAR! EVEN IF I BECOME A HORSE I WOULDN'T GO WITH YOU!

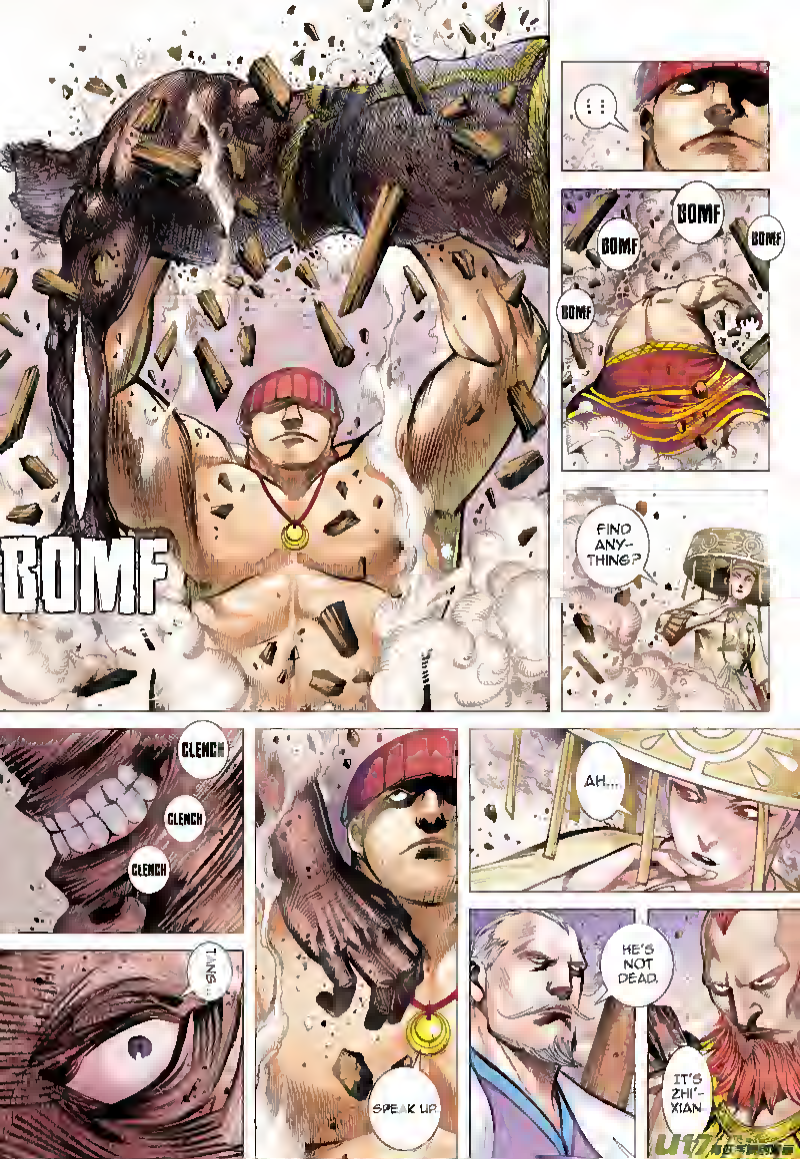
HOOD

THIS IS THE PLACE
ZHANG CHUN BROTHEL
STEP

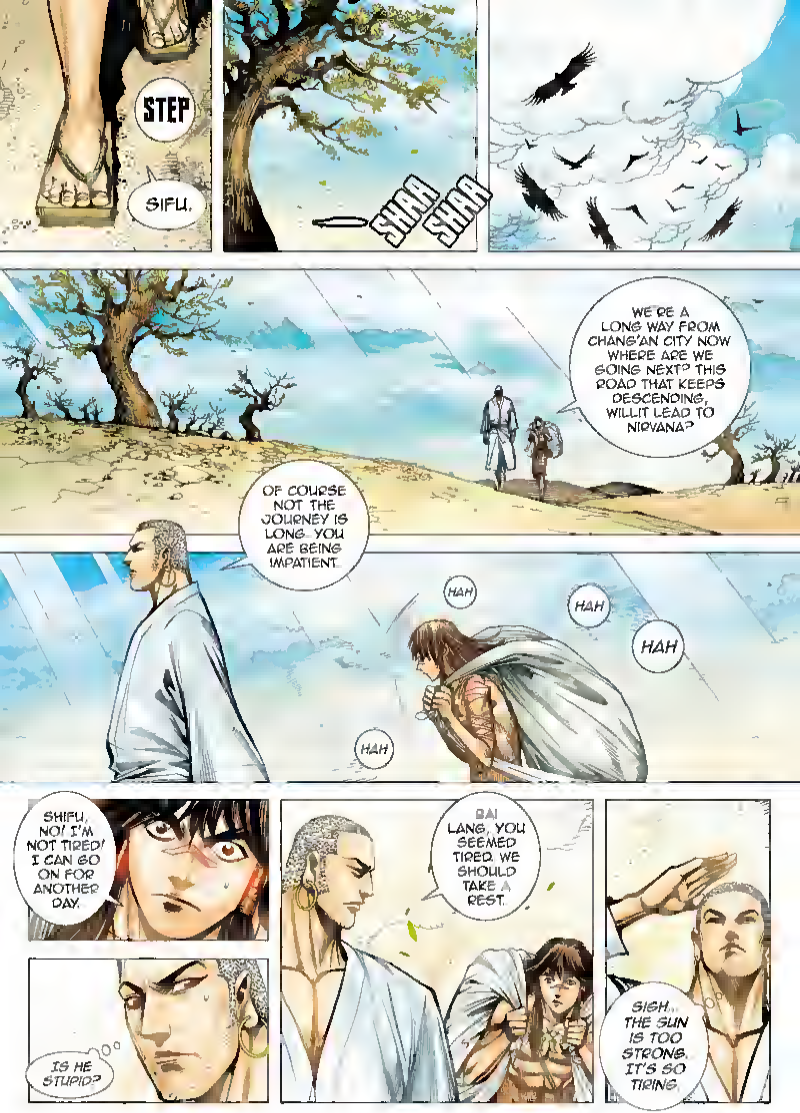
CHANG AN CITY
MIDNIGHT

LOOKS LIKE A BATTLE WAS GOING ON HERE
BAI JING SHUI JIN-GANG

DING CHE ZAI JIN-GANG
COINCI-DENTALLY, IT'S THE PLACE WHERE TANG SAN ZANG RESIDES.
IT'S NOT A COINCI-DENCE
CHI SHENG HOU JIN-GANG
ZHI'XIAN AND JINGANG TRACKED THE SUTRA HERE, THEN HE VANISHED
QING CHU ZAI JIN-GANG
IS THAT TRUE? TANG SAN ZANG IS OUR FRIEND. I REFUSE TO BELIEVE HE'D HELP A WOLF DEMON
ZHI XIAN IS FIGHTING AGAINST A LOW LEVEL WOLF DEMON. THERE'S NO REASON FOR HIM TO LOSE UNLESS TANG SANZANG DID SOMETHING
TAN SAN ZANG ISN'T HERE EITHER. HE MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS
SHAA
SHAA


BOMF
...
BOMF
BOMF
BOMF
BOMF
FIND ANY-THING?
CLENCH
CLENCH
CLENCH
TANG
SPEAK UP.
AH...
HE'S NOT DEAD.
IT'S ZHI'-XIAN

TANG SAN ZANG TOOK THE SUTRA...
HE... IS OUR IS OUR ENEMY!
HMPH! WE CAN NEVER TRUST HUMANS AFTER ALL!
I KNEW IT!
...SIGH.
!


STEP
SIFU,
SHAA SHAA
WE'RE A LONG WAY FROM CHANG'AN CITY NOW. WHERE ARE WE GOING NEXT? THIS ROAD THAT KEEPS DESCENDING, WILL IT LEAD TO NIRVANA?
OF COURSE NOT. THE JOURNEY IS LONG. YOU ARE BEING IMPATIENT.
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
SHIFU, NO! I'M NOT TIRED! I CAN GO ON FOR ANOTHER DAY.
BAI LANG, YOU SEEMED TIRED. WE SHOULD TAKE A REST.
SIGH.. THE SUN IS TOO STRONG. IT'S SO TIRING.
IS HE STUPID?

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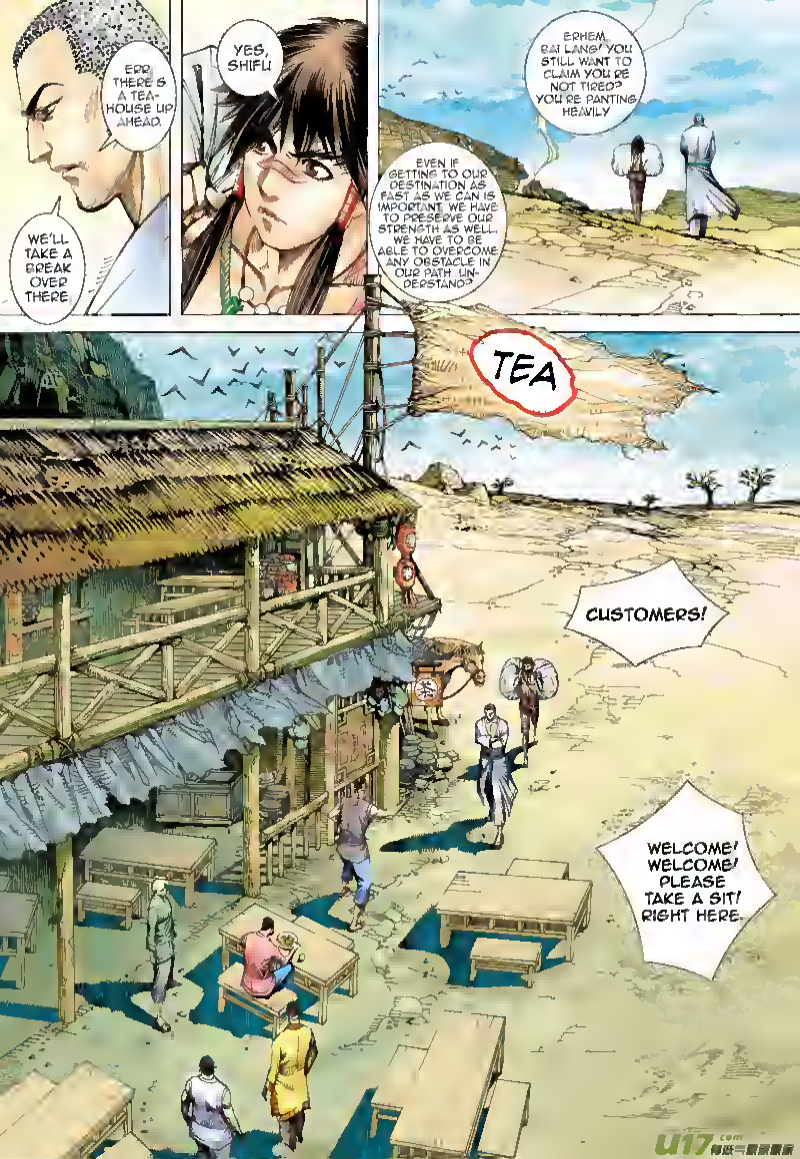
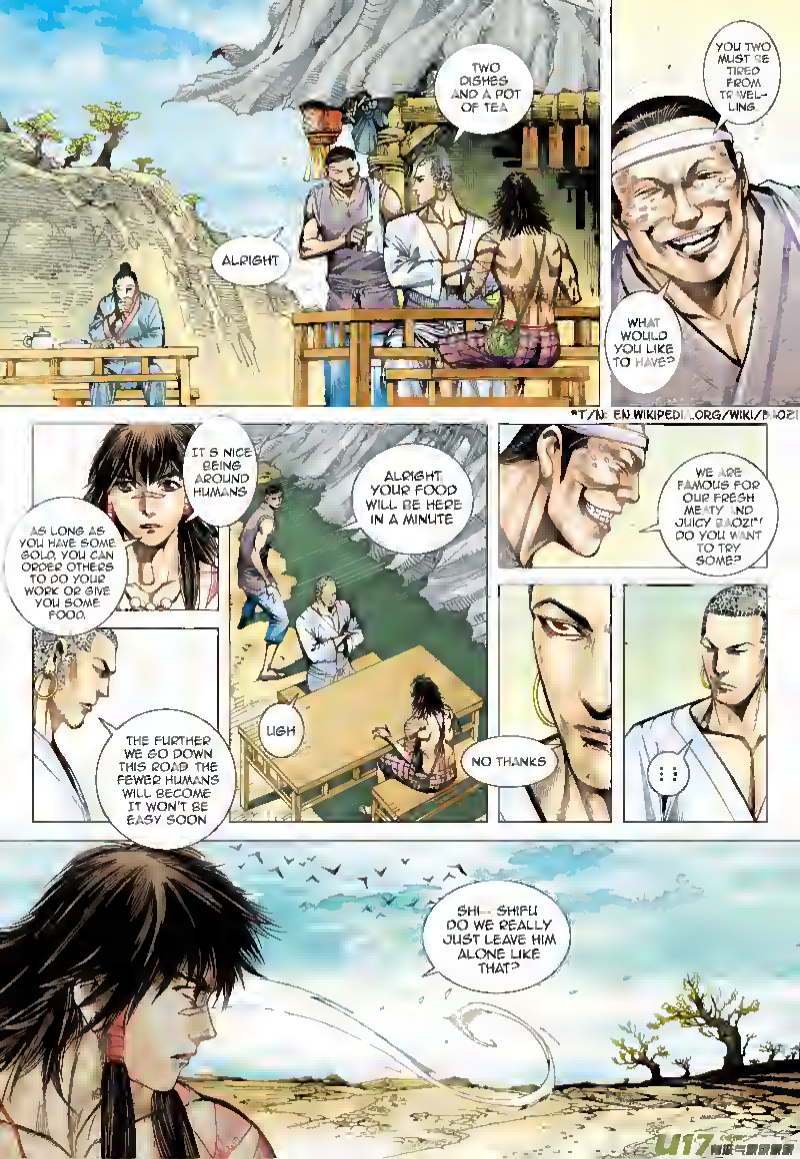
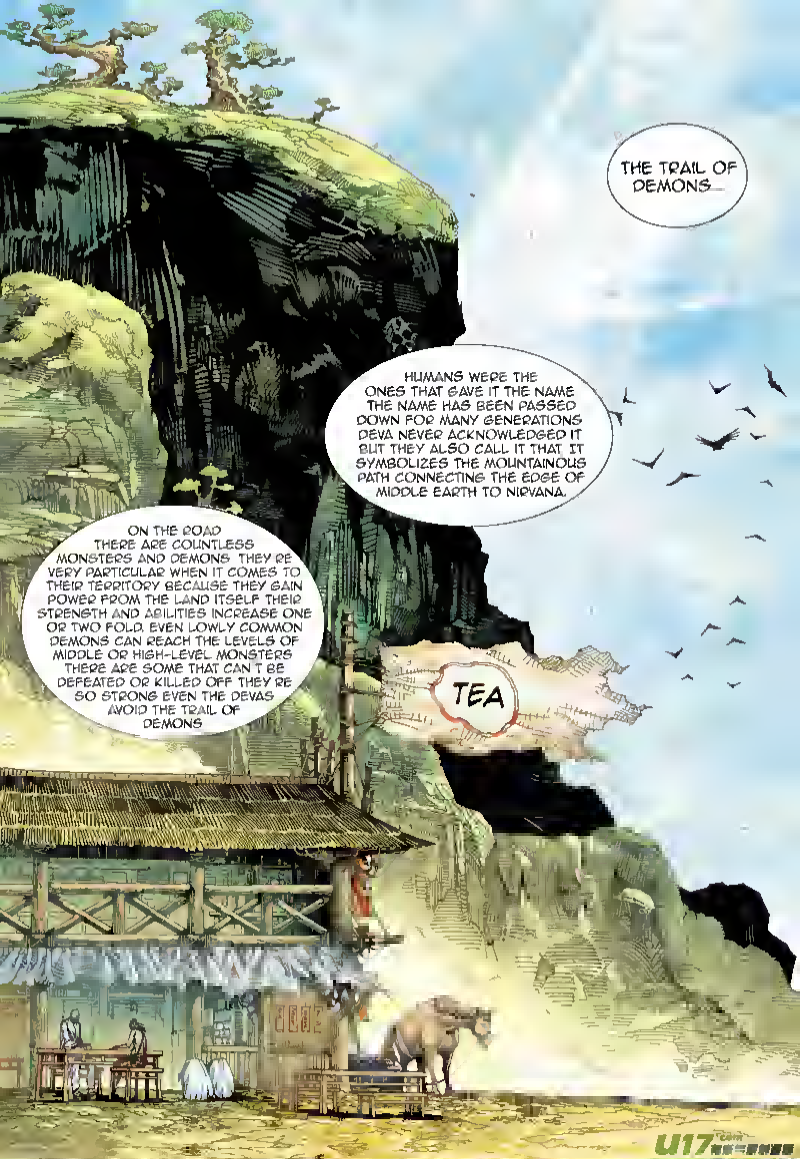

ERR, THERE'S A TEA-HOUSE UP AHEAD.
WE'LL TAKE A BREAK OVER THERE.
YES, SHIFU.
EVEN IF GETTING TO OUR DESTINATION AS FAST AS WE CAN IS IMPORTANT, WE HAVE TO PRESERVE OUR STRENGTH AS WELL. WE HAVE TO BE ABLE TO OVERCOME ANY OBSTACLE IN OUR PATH. UNDERSTAND?
EPHEM. BAI LANG! YOU STILL WANT TO CLAIM YOU'RE NOT TIRED? YOU'RE PANTING HEAVILY.
TEA
CUSTOMERS!
WELCOME! WELCOME! PLEASE TAKE A SIT! RIGHT HERE.


TWO DISHES AND A POT OF TEA
ALRIGHT
YOU TWO MUST BE TIRED FROM TRAVELLING.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE?
*T/N: EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/BAOZI
IT'S NICE BEING AROUND HUMANS
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE SOME GOLD, YOU CAN ORDER OTHERS TO DO YOUR WORK OR GIVE YOU SOME FOOD.
ALRIGHT, YOUR FOOD WILL BE HERE IN A MINUTE
THE FURTHER WE GO DOWN THIS ROAD THE FEWER HUMANS WILL BECOME IT WON'T BE EASY SOON
UGH
WE ARE FAMOUS FOR OUR FRESH MEATY AND JUICY BAOZI! DO YOU WANT TO TRY SOME?
NO THANKS
SHI— SHIFU DO WE REALLY JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE LIKE THAT?

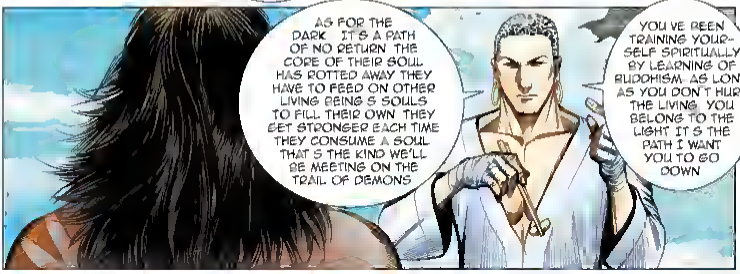
HE'S BEEN FOLLOWING US FOR A LONG TIME NOW.
MUNCH
GOBBLE
SNARF
AH! I'M STARVING!
!
PAY NO ATTENTION TO HIM. EVEN THOUGH HE SAID NO, I'M SURE HE'LL FOLLOW US. HE HAS GREAT TALENTS AND SKILLS. IF HE COULD JUST CONTROL HIMSELF, HE'D BE A GREAT HELP TO US.
*SHIXIONG=SENIOR FELLOW APPRENTICE
SHOULD I CALL HIM "SHIXIONG"?

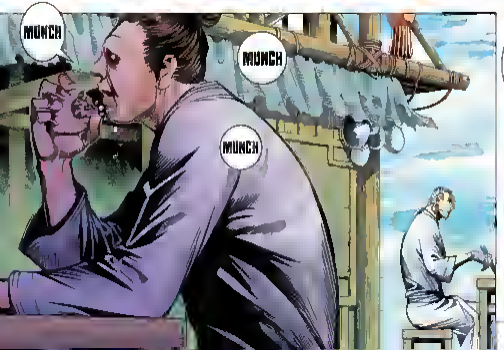
THE EXPERIENCE FROM MY PREVIOUS JOURNEY SHOULD MAKE THIS TIME FASTER BUT IT WON'T MAKE ANY REAL DIFFERENCE
DURING THAT TIME YOU HAVE TO LEARN AND TRAIN
JUST CALL HIM AH XUE HE WAS NEVER MY DISCIPLE
SHIFU, THE LAST TIME THE JOURNEY TO THE WEST TOOK YOU 10 YEARS
WILL THIS TIME TAKE THAT LONG TOO?
YOU HAVE THE SPIRIT OF A WOLF AND A DRAGON IN YOU FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME BUT, YOU STILL CAN'T USE THEM EFFICIENTLY
YOU HAVE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SPIRITS INSIDE YOU AND HOW TO CONTROL THEM
MUNCH
MUNCH
UM... I COULD ONLY SUMMON LORD SHOU'S STRENGTH WHEN I WAS ANXIOUS, OR ANGRY

WHENEVER THERE'S FREE TIME ALONG THE WAY, I'LL TEACH AND TRAIN YOU THAT WILL HELP YOU GET STRONGER. YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT WHAT YOU VALUE. TO DO THAT YOU HAVE TO GET STRONGER. UNDERSTAND?
NO MATTER IF IT'S THE DEVA, DRAGONS, DEMONS, OR HUMANS. THEIR ABILITIES ARE DISTINGUISHED BY THE SPIRITS RESIDING IN THEM. SPIRITUAL TRAINING TRAINS YOUR SPIRIT AND SOUL, WHILE PHYSICAL TRAINING WILL AID YOU IN COMBAT.
...
IF WE CONTINUE DOWN THIS PATH FOR ANOTHER MONTH OR SO, WE'LL ARRIVED AT THE STARTING POINT OF OUR JOURNEY.
IT'S FINE TO ALWAYS MOVE FORWARD AND STRIVE TO DO BETTER. BUT, SOMETIMES IT'S BEST TO STOP AND THINK FOR A MOMENT.
HMM? UNDERSTOOD!
HEY, I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT IT. YOU'RE A GUY THAT'S A WORKAHOLIC AND NEVER SLACKS OFF.


THE TRAIL OF DEMONS...
HUMANS WERE THE ONES THAT GAVE IT THE NAME THE NAME HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN FOR MANY GENERATIONS DEVA NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED IT BUT THEY ALSO CALL IT THAT IT SYMBOLIZES THE MOUNTAINOUS PATH CONNECTING THE EDGE OF MIDDLE EARTH TO NIRVANA.
ON THE ROAD THERE ARE COUNTLESS MONSTERS AND DEMONS THEY'RE VERY PARTICULAR WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR TERRITORY BECAUSE THEY GAIN POWER FROM THE LAND ITSELF THEIR STRENGTH AND ABILITIES INCREASE ONE OR TWO FOLD. EVEN LOWLY COMMON DEMONS CAN REACH THE LEVELS OF MIDDLE OR HIGH-LEVEL MONSTERS THERE ARE SOME THAT CAN'T BE DEFEATED OR KILLED OFF THEY'RE SO STRONG EVEN THE DEVAS AVOID THE TRAIL OF DEMONS
TEA

THERE'S DIFFERENT KINDS OF DEMONS IN THE WORLD. GENERALLY THEY CAN BE CATEGORIZED AS LIGHT OR DARK
DO YOU THINK THEY'LL HELP US? WHILE I WAS AT THE DRAGON PALACE, I MET SOME FRIENDLY ONES
THE DEMONS ON THE TRAIL OF DEMONS
WHAT ABOUT ME? WHAT'S MY CATEGORY?
YOU'RE A LOW-LEVELED DEMON

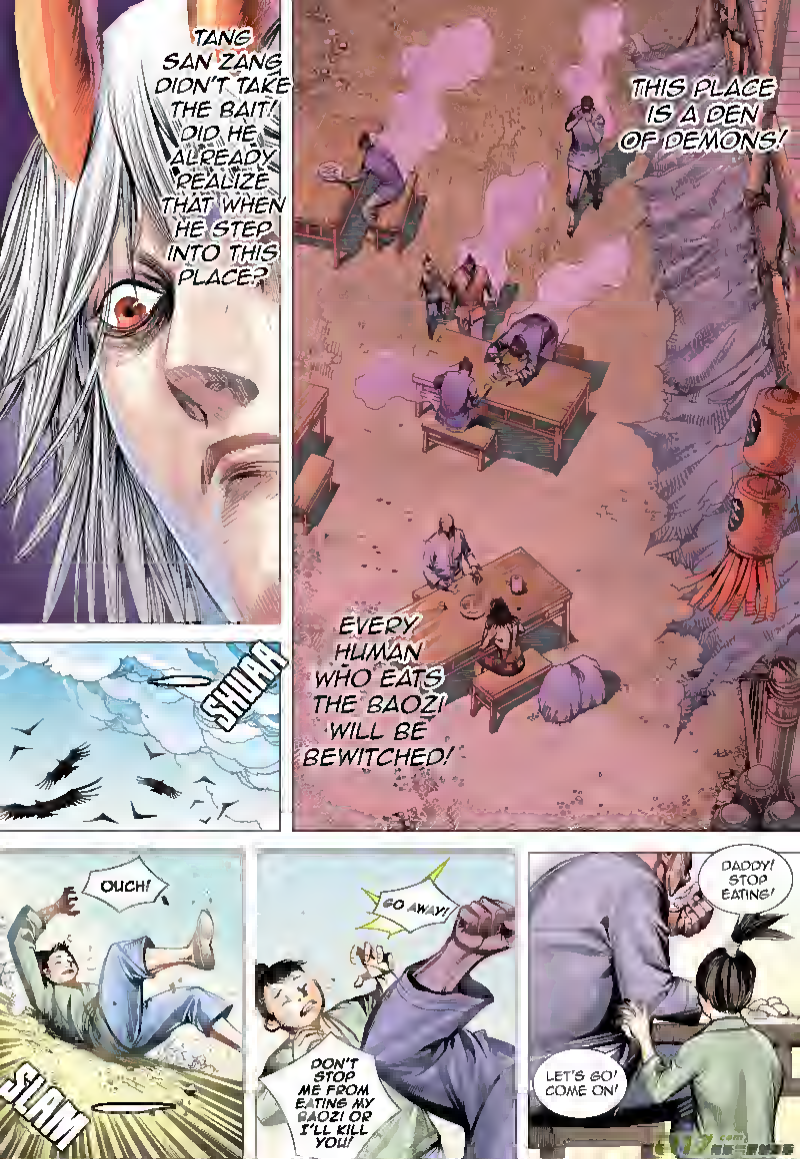

AS FOR THE DARK IT'S A PATH OF NO RETURN THE CORE OF THEIR SOUL HAS ROTTED AWAY THEY HAVE TO FEED ON OTHER LIVING BEING'S SOULS TO FILL THEIR OWN THEY GET STRONGER EACH TIME THEY CONSUME A SOUL THAT'S THE KIND WE'LL BE MEETING ON THE TRAIL OF DEMONS
YOU'VE BEEN TRAINING YOURSELF SPIRITUALLY BY LEARNING OF BUDDHISM. AS LONG AS YOU DON'T HURT THE LIVING, YOU BELONG TO THE LIGHT IT'S THE PATH I WANT YOU TO GO DOWN

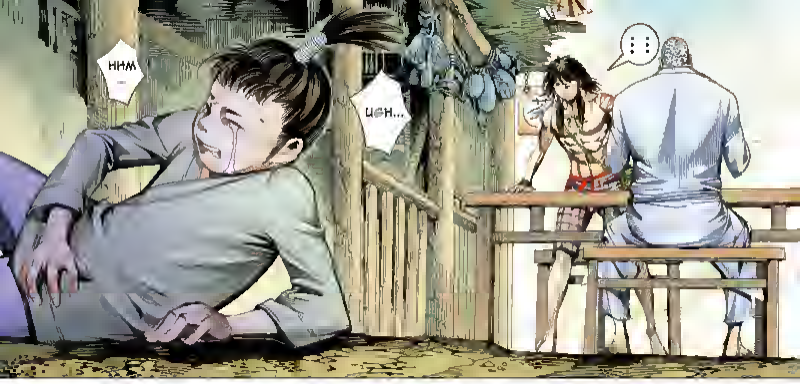

MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH

DEMONS THAT HAVE TASTED HUMAN MEAT EMIT A STRANGE ODOR

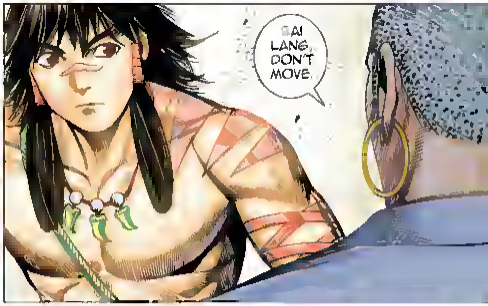
NORMALLY IT'S QUITE EASY TO SPOT THEM IN A CROWD

HAHA...
BAOZI... IT'S NICE!
IT'S SO DELI-CIOUS.
MINE! IT'S MINE.
GOBBLE
GOBBLE
...
THE HUMANS HERE ARE ACTING REALLY STRANGE
THIS TEAHOUSE ITSELF IS...
DAD
DADDY
EAT
HAVE SOME MORE
HAH
HAHA


TANG SAN ZANG DIDN'T TAKE THE BAIT! DID HE ALREADY REALIZE THAT WHEN HE STEP INTO THIS PLACE?
THIS PLACE IS A DEN OF DEMONS!
EVERY HUMAN WHO EATS THE BAOZI WILL BE BEWITCHED!
SHUAA
OUCH!
SLAM
GO AWAY!
DON'T STOP ME FROM EATING MY BAOZI OR I'LL KILL YOU!!
DADDY! STOP EATING!
LET'S GO! COME ON!

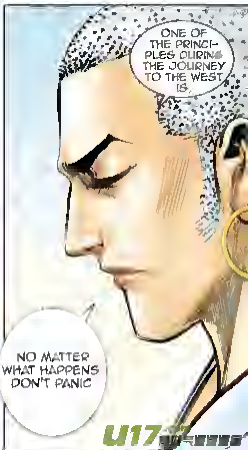

HMM
UGH...

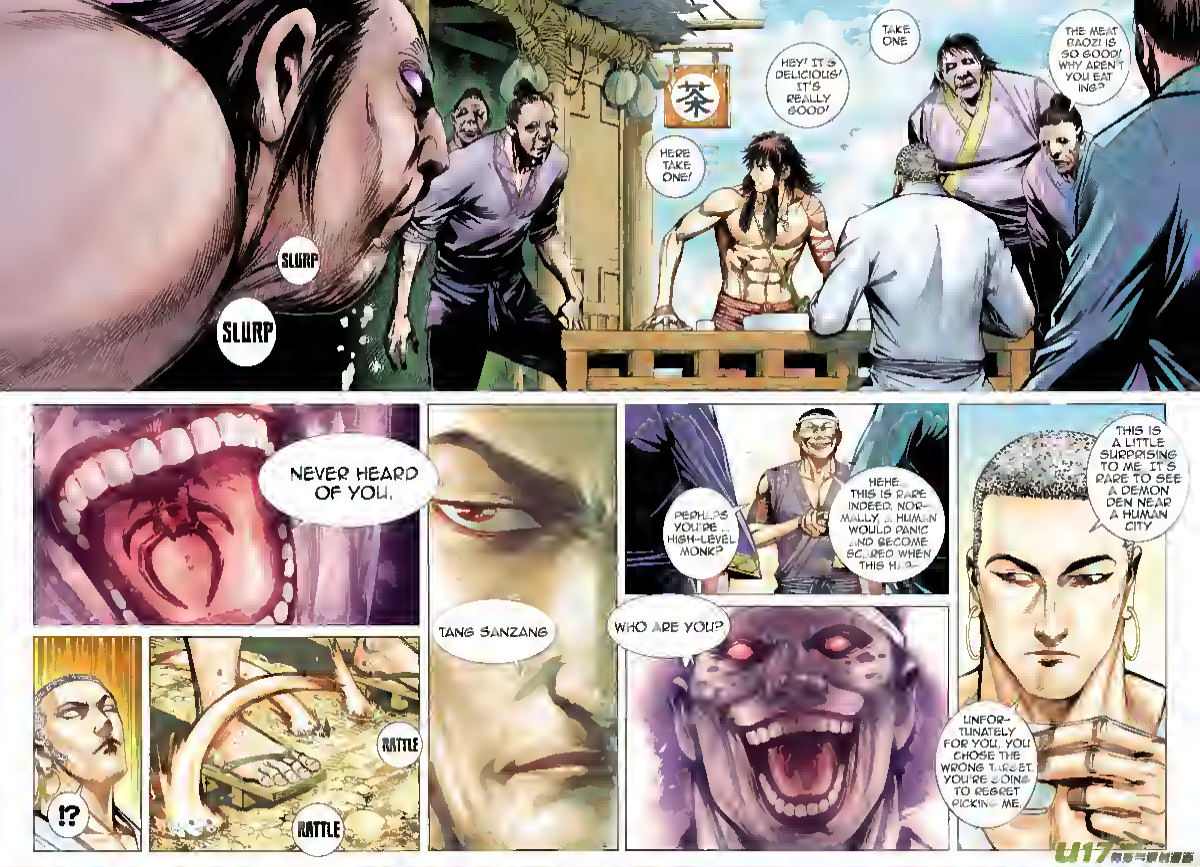
HEY HEY
WHY AREN'T YOU GUYS EATING?


GAI LANG, DON'T MOVE

AHH...

SO DELI-CIOUS

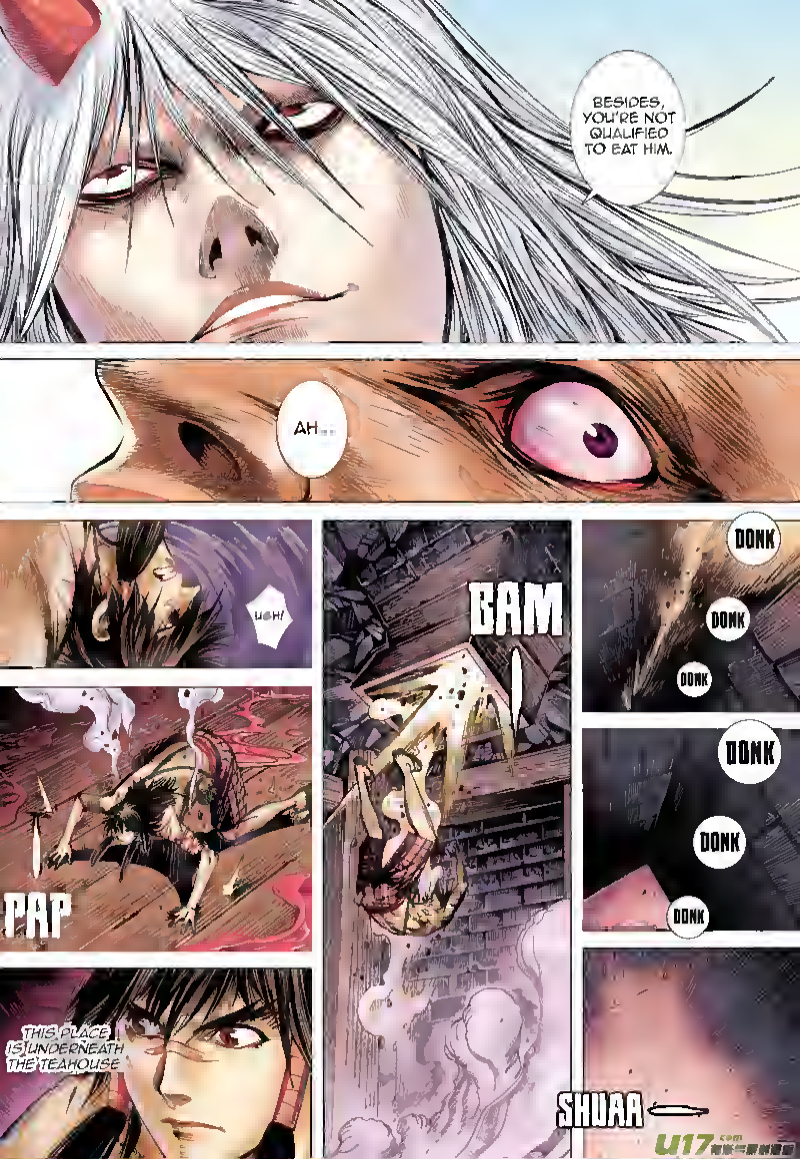

ONE OF THE PRINCI-PLES DURING THE JOURNEY TO THE WEST IS
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS DON'T PANIC


SLURP
SLURP
HEY! IT'S DELICIOUS! IT'S REALLY GOOD!
TAKE ONE
THE MEAT BAOZI IS SO GOOD! WHY AREN'T YOU EATING?
HERE, TAKE ONE!
NEVER HEARD OF YOU.
TANG SANZANG
!?
RATTLE
RATTLE
PERHAPS YOU'RE A HIGH-LEVEL MONK?
HEHE. THIS IS RARE INDEED. NORMALLY, A HUMAN WOULD PANIC AND BECOME SCARED WHEN THIS HAPPENS.
WHO ARE YOU?
THIS IS A LITTLE SURPRISING TO ME. IT'S RARE TO SEE A DEMON DEN NEAR A HUMAN CITY
UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, YOU CHOSE THE WRONG TARGET. YOU'RE GOING TO REGRET PICKING ME.

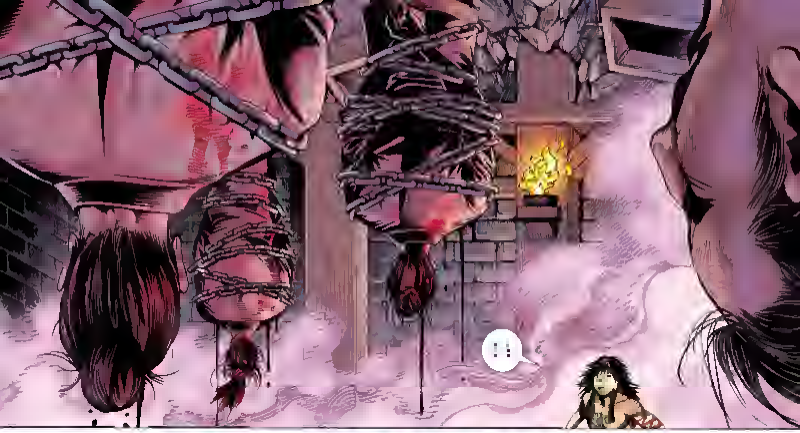
SHIFU!
BOMF
CRACK
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
!!
BOMF
ARGH!
SWOOP
SWOOP
SWOOP
BOMF

HEHE...
BOMF
SWOOP
SWOOP
UGH
HARD WORK IS ESSENTIAL!
RUB
RUB
HEHE- THAT WAY IT LL ATTRACT MORE CUSTOMERS
KEEPING A PLACE CLEAN AND TIDY IS IMPORTANT
HAHA...
IT'S TIME TO CLEAN UP THE PLACE
AND, I M OPEN FOR BUSINESS AGAIN
?
HEY YOU MAN-EATING INSECT.

THAT MAN IN THE WHITE ROBE... HE'S KIND OF AN IMPORTANT PERSON TO ME
I CAN'T LET YOU HAVE HIM
SHUAA


BESIDES, YOU'RE NOT QUALIFIED TO EAT HIM.
AH...
UGH!
PAP
BAM
DONK
DONK
DONK
DONK
DONK
DONK
THIS PLACE IS UNDERNEATH THE TEAHOUSE
SHUAA

I ROLLED DOWNWARDS FOR QUITE A LONG TIME IT'S GOT TO BE VERY DEEP UNDER IT.
WHERE'S SHIFU? IS HE HERE?
SCENT OF BLOOD.
DRIP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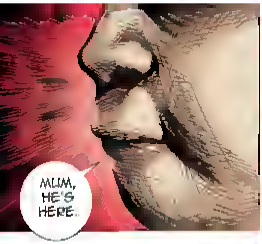
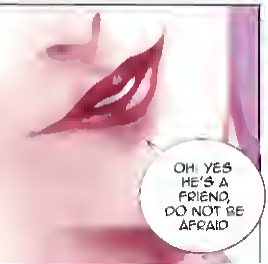
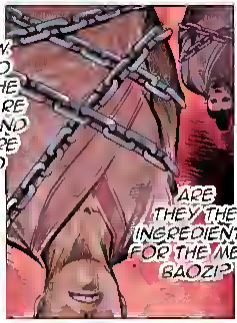

MUM, HE'S HERE.


OH. YES HE'S A FRIEND, DO NOT BE AFRAID

I UNDERSTAND NOW. THOSE WHO COME TO THE TEAHOUSE ARE CAPTURED, AND THEN THEY'RE MADE INTO BAOZI.
AND THE PERSON RUNNING THIS PLACE IS THE KIND OF DEMON SHIFU WAS TALKING ABOUT..

THESE DEAD BODIES...


ARE THEY THE INGREDIENTS FOR THE MEAT BAOZI?

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...
EAT.
IT'S FRESH.

Extra Special Credits

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23 SUPPORTERS

ARE THE HEROES OF WHITE CLOUD PAVILION!

PLEASE THANK THEM
FOR GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND
FOR ALL READERS.

A WORD OF THANKS FROM THE MAIN CHARACTERS OF THE FIRST TWO SERIES.

Qiqi - "Thank you! We can accomplish anything together."

Ryan - "Your soul belongs to me and now, your wallet too!"

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